



October 3, 1951

Honorable Homer Ferguson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Ferguson:

This is in response to your letter of September 13 in which you raise the question concerning cash contributions by Italian industry to support the Communist Party in that country, particularly with respect to firms who are beneficiaries of our foreign economic assistance.

This office has no direct information regarding this matter, but, I am sure that our Mission in Rome, in cooperation with the Italian Government, is exerting every effort to assure that no American economic assistance is extended to any Italian firm making contributions to the support of the Communist Party in Italy.

If you have information covering any specific case in which such firms have received our assistance, we should be more than glad to receive this information in order that we may institute a careful and complete investigation.

Other agencies of the government may have received intelligence reports on this matter. I assume you will inquire of them directly, if you wish to pursue the matter with them.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Acting Administrator

copy for CIA - Mr. P. J. F. [unclear]